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NEWS

TRISTATE

## Corzine and Frelinghuysen honored for Highlands efforts

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Tuesday, June 14, 2005

By **JAN BARRY**  
STAFF WRITER

FORT LEE - Sen. Jon S. Corzine and Rep. Rodney P. Frelinghuysen were honored Monday by Friends of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission for sponsoring a federal law to protect the Highlands in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Corzine, the Democratic candidate for governor, and Frelinghuysen, a 10-term Morris County Republican, were honored for leading a bipartisan effort that shepherded the federal law through Congress last year.

The forested Highlands region provides water for 4 million New Jerseyans and 7 million residents in Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut, and a habitat for an array of wildlife and parklands.

The award was presented at the park organization's annual dinner.

They were cited for their "foresight, leadership and dogged determination that led to passage of one of the most important pieces of legislation to benefit New Jersey in decades," said James E. Hanson II, president of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

The Highlands Conservation Act was signed by President Bush last year shortly after Gov. James E. McGreevey signed New Jersey's Highlands preservation law. That measure severely restricts large-scale development across 395,000 acres in North Jersey's Highlands.

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The federal law designates the Highlands as "lands of national significance" and authorizes Congress to match \$100 million in state open-space acquisition funds over 10 years.

It also authorizes an additional \$10 million for acquisition planning in the four-state region.

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